

June, 2004

Vermont Public Radio (VPR), a licensee of 5 FM stations serving the citizens of Vermont, is pleased to comment on "Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems and Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service" as requested by the Commission.

We're very excited about the potential that a SUPPLEMENTAL AUDIO CHANNEL would bring to this community and region. VPR is launching a second program service in July, 2004 - offering a full time classical music station to listeners in many small rural communities along the Vermont/New Hampshire border through the facilities of radio station WNCH 88.1 FM Norwich, VT. This full-time classical music service would be an ideal offering on the secondary audio channel of the existing network, and with the proper support, would bring classical music to the entire state of Vermont along with VPR's current service of NPR news and local commentary.

Our organization believes that a Supplemental Audio Channel, if approved by the Commission, would be a reasonable and cost-effective delivery service for additional programming of an important community institution, public radio.

We are also pleased to be working with an industry leader, National Public Radio (NPR), on the "Tomorrow Radio" project, and hope that the technology, which has proven its worth in field tests, would be quickly adopted by the Commission. Once that happens, VPR, along with hundreds of other local public radio stations, will be able to enhance and expand the service to the 180,000 listeners who tune in to Vermont Public Radio each week.

Thanks for taking the time to help this project a reality.

Sincerely,
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